SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS
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12¢
BATMAN
NOV. No. 175
ARE YOU SHOCK-PROOF?
DO YOU DARE SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT'S INSIDE THE MYSTERIOUS ROOM A BATTERED BATMAN IS STAGGERING OUT OF?
THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER IS REVEALED IN...
"The DECLINE and FALL of BATMAN!"
LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT HIM!
HOLD IT, ROBIN! DON'T GO IN THAT ROOM! I WAS LUCKY TO GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE!

NFL FORD PP&K COMPETITION

BOYS 8 THROUGH 13... IT'S FUN! IT'S FREE!

Enter the Fifth Annual Ford Dealers— National Football League

PUNT, PASS & KICK COMPETITION

Sign up at your Ford Dealer's from Sept. 1 to Oct. 8! Hurry!

Ask mom or dad to take you to your nearest Ford Dealer who displays a PP&K emblem in his window . . . and hurry! That's the place to sign up for Ford's fifth annual Punt, Pass & Kick Competition . . . and it doesn't cost a penny!

Win Wonderful Prizes! Boys 8, 9 and 10 can win an NFL-type warm-up jacket, a PP&K football helmet, or a regulation-size PP&K football. Boys 11, 12 and 13 can win a gold, silver or bronze trophy. (Trophies, instead of merchandise, will be awarded in Missouri, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming.)

Win Wonderful Trips! Local champions compete in district competition. District winners then go into area competition, which includes a trip to an NFL game with their dads. Division champions go with both parents on a "Tour of Champions" to Washington, D.C., and Miami, Florida.

It's Easy! It's Fun! It's FREE! Local competitions will be held in your neighborhood. You compete in punting, passing and place-kicking (distance and accuracy) . . . and *only against boys your own age!*

Free Gifts for Registering! You must have your mom or dad or legal guardian with you when you sign up. Just for registering, your Ford Dealer will give you *free:*

- **a PP&K tie-lapel pin**
- **a booklet of PP&K competition tips**

REGISTER SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 8! IT'S FREE! IT'S FUN!

FORD DIVISION OF Ford

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BATMAN
With ROBIN The Boy Wonder
TWO ROBINS-- ONE WITH TRICKIER FIGHTING TACTICS THAN THOSE OF THE REAL BOY WONDER!
TWO BATMEN-- ONE OF WHOM IS FAR MORE ATHLETIC AND POWERFUL THAN THE REAL MASKED MANHUNTER!
APPEARING SUDDENLY IN GOTHAM CITY, THESE EERIE COUNTERPARTS EASILY OUT-DO BATMAN AND ROBIN AT THEIR OWN CRIME-BUSTING GAME! THEN, TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE FOR THE COWLED CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT, THEIR RIVALS TURN ON THEM TO BRING ABOUT--
THE DECLINE AND FALL OF BATMAN
MY BATMAN- FOE CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE AS HE STEPPED RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
YIII! MY ROBIN- COUNTERPART SNEAK-ATTACKED ME--BY COMING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR!
BOB KANE

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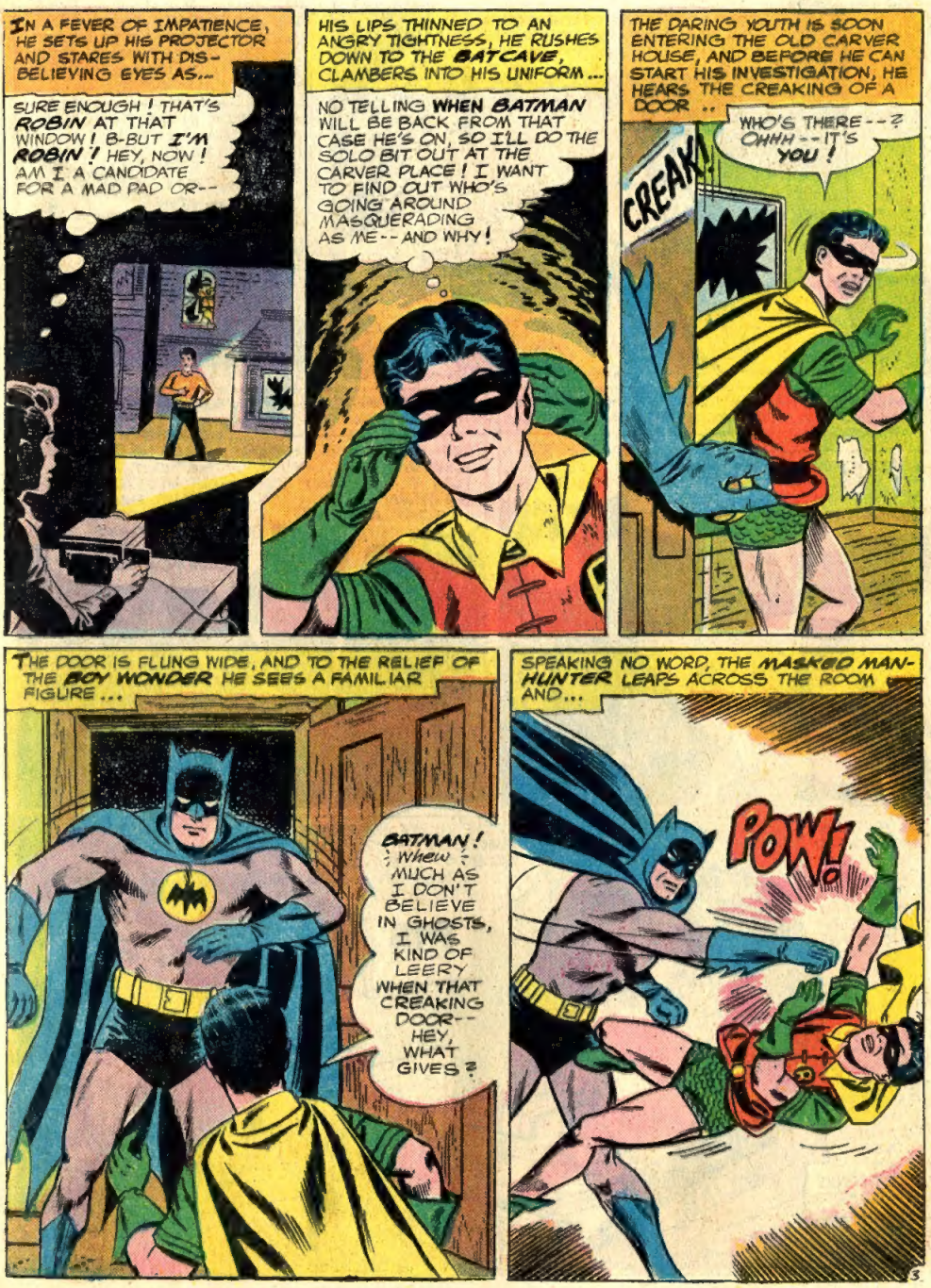
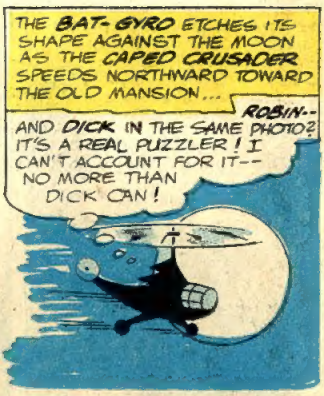
AS DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON HIKES ACROSS THE TALL CLIFFS OF THE PALISADES WITH A GROUP OF HIS SCHOOL CHUMS...
LOOK, THERE'S THE OLD CARVER PLACE!
WHY'D YOU STEER US HERE, DICK? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED!
NOT A GHOST OF A CHANCE! HOW ABOUT ONE OF YOU FELLOWS TAKING A PICTURE OF ME WITH THAT HOUSE AS A BACKGROUND!
I'LL DO IT, DICK--LONG AS I CAN KEEP MY DISTANCE!
THERE IS NO SUSPICION IN YOUNG DICK'S MIND AS HE STRIKES A HAMMY POSE THAT HE IS STARTING A CHAIN OF EERIE, ALMOST INCREDIBLE PERILS FOR HIMSELF AS ROBIN, AND FOR BATMAN AS WELL...
MAKE SURE YOU GET THE HOUSE IN!
I'M FOCUSING RIGHT NOW... HOLD IT!
FOR EVEN AS THE CAMERA CLICKS--FAMILIAR GLOVED HANDS APPEAR AT THE WINDOW OF AN UPPER FLOOR..
IN THE WAYNE MANSION THAT NIGHT AFTER DINNER--THE TABLE IS SET FOR ONLY TWO PLACES, SINCE BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE IS OFF ON A JUSTICE LEAGUE CASE..
GOT TO GET TO MY DARK ROOM, AUNT HARRIET, AND SEE IF MY PICTURES ARE DEVELOPED YET!
ALONE IN HIS DARK ROOM, DICK GRAYSON IS STUNNED TO SEE...
WH--WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IN THE WINDOW OF THAT HAUNTED HOUSE... SOMEONE AWFULLY FAMILIAR! I'D BETTER PUT THIS SLIDE ON A SCREEN AND SEE WHAT THAT FIGURE LOOKS LIKE BLOWN UP!

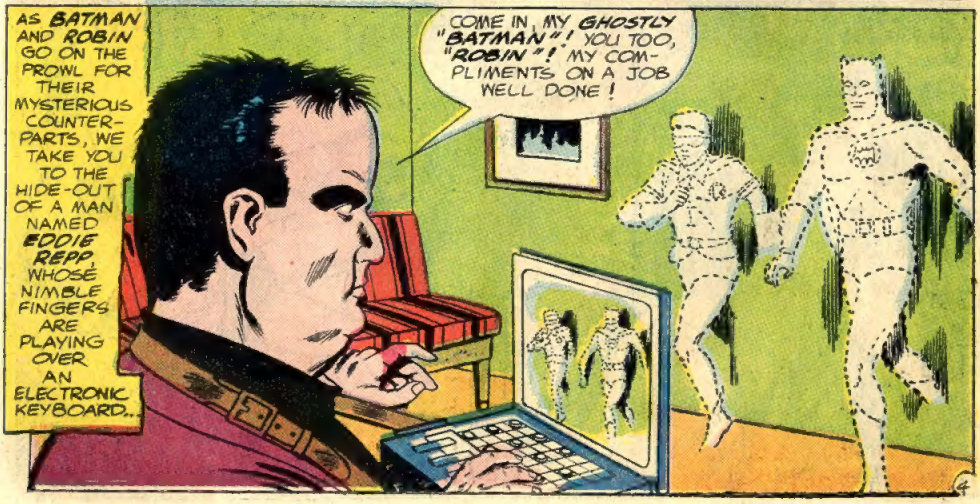

IN A FEVER OF IMPATIENCE, HE SETS UP HIS PROJECTOR AND STARES WITH DISBELIEVING EYES AS...
SURE ENOUGH! THAT'S ROBIN AT THAT WINDOW! B-BUT I'M ROBIN! HEY, NOW! AM I A CANDIDATE FOR A MAD PAD OR--
HIS LIPS THINNED TO AN ANGRY TIGHTNESS, HE RUSHES DOWN TO THE BATCAVE, CLAMBERS INTO HIS UNIFORM...
NO TELLING WHEN BATMAN WILL BE BACK FROM THAT CASE HE'S ON, SO I'LL DO THE SOLO BIT OUT AT THE CARVER PLACE! I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO'S GOING AROUND MASQUERADING AS ME--AND WHY!
THE DARING YOUTH IS SOON ENTERING THE OLD CARVER HOUSE, AND BEFORE HE CAN START HIS INVESTIGATION, HE HEARS THE CREAKING OF A DOOR..
CREAK!
WHO'S THERE--? OHHH--IT'S YOU!
THE DOOR IS FLUNG WIDE, AND TO THE RELIEF OF THE BOY WONDER HE SEES A FAMILIAR FIGURE...
BATMAN! WHEW! MUCH AS I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, I WAS KIND OF LEERY WHEN THAT CREAKING DOOR--HEY, WHAT GIVES?
SPEAKING NO WORD, THE MASKED MANHUNTER LEAPS ACROSS THE ROOM AND...
POW!

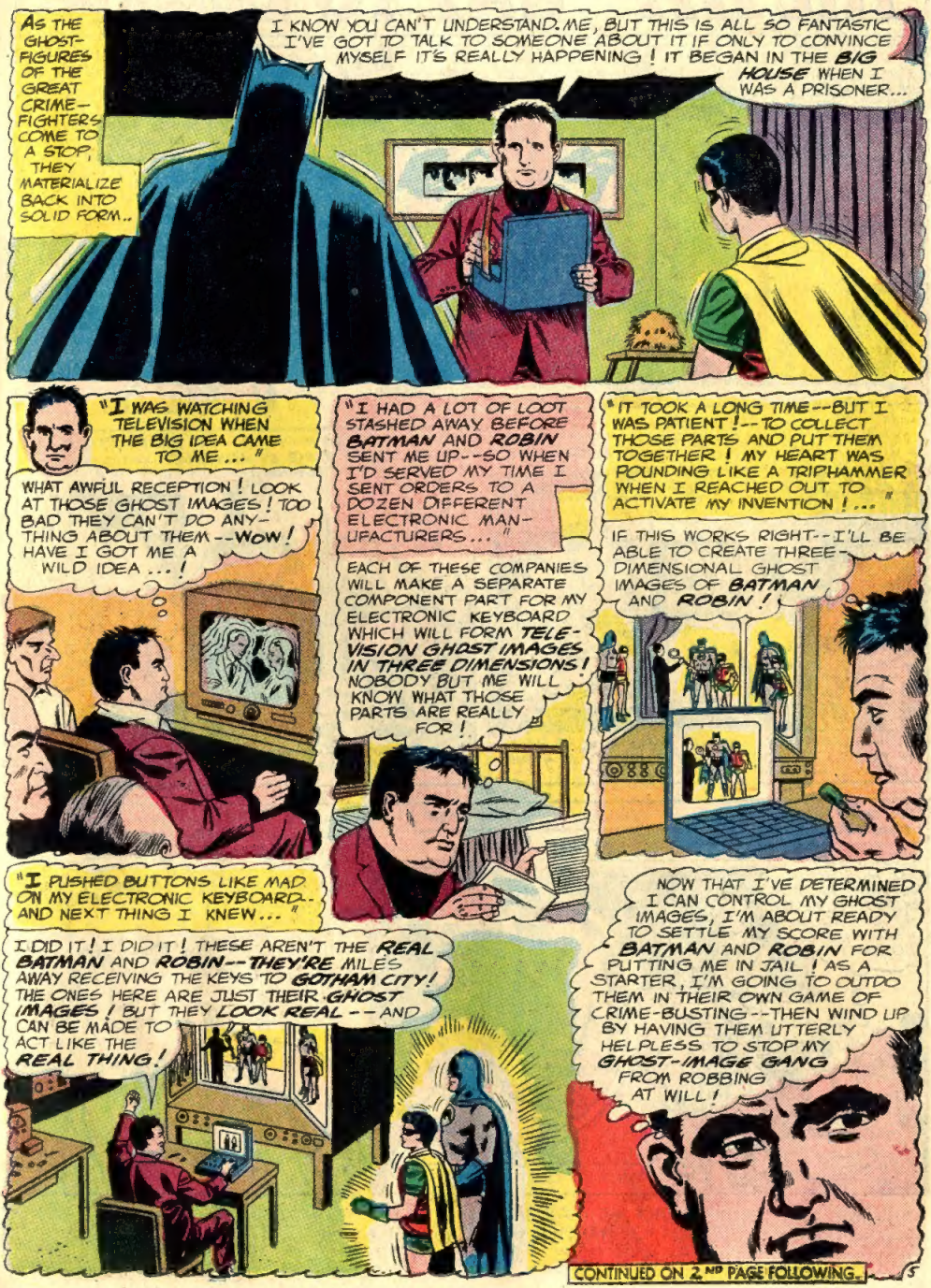
NOT LONG BEFORE, BATMAN HAD RETURNED TO THE BAT-CAVE BY WAY OF ITS SECRET ENTRANCE TO FIND..
ROBIN LEFT A MESSAGE FOR ME! FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, I'VE GOT A FOLLOW-UP CASE TO WORK ON...
HAVE GONE TO CARVER PLACE BECAUSE OF THIS PHOTO


THE BAT-GYRO ETCHES ITS SHAPE AGAINST THE MOON AS THE CAPED CRUSADER SPEEDS NORTHWARD TOWARD THE OLD MANSION...
ROBIN-- AND DICK IN THE SAME PHOTO? IT'S A REAL PUZZLER! I CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR IT-- NO MORE THAN DICK CAN!

BATMAN IS TO FIND EVEN FURTHER RIDDLES AWAITING HIM -- FOR AS HE STEPS INTO THE DARK ROOM...
OHH, MY ACHING JAW! DID YOU HAVE TO HIT ME SO HARD? AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU BETTER EXPLAIN WHY YOU SLUGGED ME!
POOR KID, HE'S DELIRIOUS!

AFTER ROBIN RELATES HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE...
THEN WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO WHAT I SAW AND FELT? A GHOST BATMAN? A GHOST ROBIN?
COMMON SENSE TELLS US TO RULE THAT OUT--BUT I HAVE AN EERIE FEELING THAT THIS CASE IS GOING TO DEVELOP INTO SOMETHING THAT WILL JAR OUR COMMON SENSES!

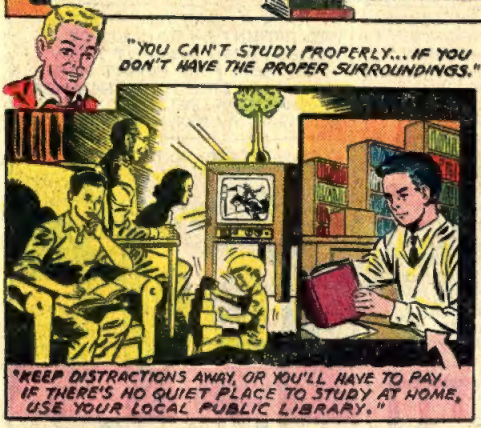

AS BATMAN AND ROBIN GO ON THE PROWL FOR THEIR MYSTERIOUS COUNTERPARTS, WE TAKE YOU TO THE HIDE-OUT OF A MAN NAMED EDDIE REPP, WHOSE NIMBLE FINGERS ARE PLAYING OVER AN ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD..
COME IN, MY GHOSTLY "BATMAN"! YOU TOO, "ROBIN"! MY COMPLIMENTS ON A JOB WELL DONE!

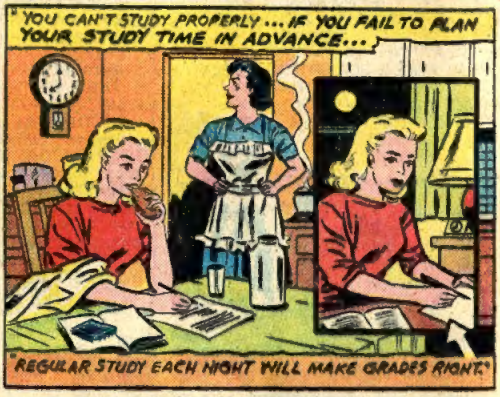

AS THE GHOST-FIGURES OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTERS COME TO A STOP, THEY MATERIALIZE BACK INTO SOLID FORM..
I KNOW YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ME, BUT THIS IS ALL SO FANTASTIC I'VE GOT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT IF ONLY TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT'S REALLY HAPPENING! IT BEGAN IN THE BIG HOUSE WHEN I WAS A PRISONER...
"I WAS WATCHING TELEVISION WHEN THE BIG IDEA CAME TO ME..."
WHAT AWFUL RECEPTION! LOOK AT THOSE GHOST IMAGES! TOO BAD THEY CAN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT THEM--WOW! HAVE I GOT ME A WILD IDEA...!
"I HAD A LOT OF LOOT STASHED AWAY BEFORE BATMAN AND ROBIN SENT ME UP--SO WHEN I'D SERVED MY TIME I SENT ORDERS TO A DOZEN DIFFERENT ELECTRONIC MAN-UFACTURERS..."
EACH OF THESE COMPANIES WILL MAKE A SEPARATE COMPONENT PART FOR MY ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD WHICH WILL FORM TELE-VISION GHOST IMAGES IN THREE DIMENSIONS! NOBODY BUT ME WILL KNOW WHAT THOSE PARTS ARE REALLY FOR!
"IT TOOK A LONG TIME--BUT I WAS PATIENT!--TO COLLECT THOSE PARTS AND PUT THEM TOGETHER! MY HEART WAS POUNDING LIKE A TRIPHAMMER WHEN I REACHED OUT TO ACTIVATE MY INVENTION!..."
IF THIS WORKS RIGHT--I'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE THREE-DIMENSIONAL GHOST IMAGES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!
"I PUSHED BUTTONS LIKE MAD ON MY ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD--AND NEXT THING I KNEW..."
I DID IT! I DID IT! THESE AREN'T THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN--THEY'RE MILES AWAY RECEIVING THE KEYS TO GOTHAM CITY! THE ONES HERE ARE JUST THEIR GHOST IMAGES! BUT THEY LOOK REAL--AND CAN BE MADE TO ACT LIKE THE REAL THING!
NOW THAT I'VE DETERMINED I CAN CONTROL MY GHOST IMAGES, I'M ABOUT READY TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN FOR PUTTING ME IN JAIL! AS A STARTER, I'M GOING TO OUTDO THEM IN THEIR OWN GAME OF CRIME-BUSTING--THEN WIND UP BY HAVING THEM UTTERLY HELPLESS TO STOP MY GHOST-IMAGE GANG FROM ROBBING AT WILL!

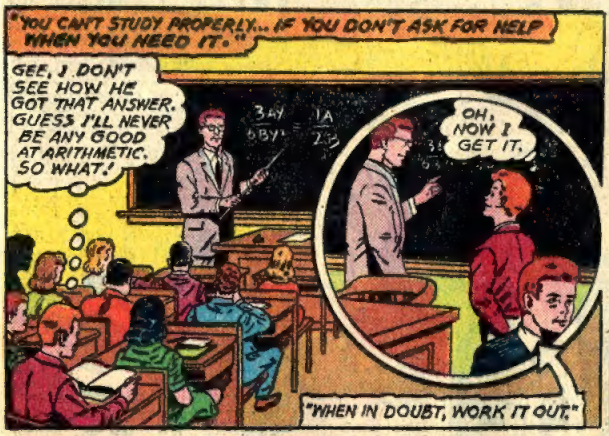
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

THE *HIP* WAY TO LEARN!

GEE, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT... I FLUNKED MISS JOHNSON'S EXAM AFTER STUDYING A WHOLE WEEKEND!
I REALLY STUDIED TOO, AND I JUST BARELY PASSED. SHE'S TOO TOUGH ON US!


"YOU CAN'T STUDY PROPERLY... IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE PROPER SURROUNDINGS."
"KEEP DISTRACTIONS AWAY, OR YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY. IF THERE'S NO QUIET PLACE TO STUDY AT HOME, USE YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY."




"YOU CAN'T STUDY PROPERLY... IF YOU DON'T ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT."
GEE, I DON'T SEE HOW HE GOT THAT ANSWER. GUESS I'LL NEVER BE ANY GOOD AT ARITHMETIC. SO WHAT!
OH, NOW I GET IT.
"WHEN IN DOUBT, WORK IT OUT."

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

"I WORKED AND PRACTICED ON MY KEYBOARD UNTIL I HAD IT DOWN PAT! I COULD MAKE YOU TWO DO ANYTHING I WANTED--EXCEPT TOUCH OBJECTS.."
I'VE GOT TO CONTROL THE SOLIDITY OF YOUR BODY BEFORE I PIT YOU AGAINST THE REAL BATMAN! YOUR HAND PASSED THROUGH THE BOOK...
"I KEPT AT IT UNTIL..."
THAT DOES IT! WHILE PART OF YOU REMAINS INTANGIBLE, I CAN MAKE ANOTHER PART SOLID--LIKE YOUR HAND--TO HIT WITH THE IMPACT OF A BATTERING RAM!
CRACK!
FOR A FINAL TOUCH, I'VE ATTACHED MINIATURIZED MICROPHONES AND TELEVISION CAMERAS TO YOUR UNIFORMS--SO I CAN FOLLOW AND CONTROL YOUR MOVEMENTS ON THE TV SCREEN ATTACHED TO MY KEYBOARD!
"I WAS ALSO ABLE TO MAKE YOU COMPLETELY INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE, YET FOLLOW YOUR ACTIONS AT THE SAME TIME..."
"BATMAN" AND "ROBIN" CANNOT BE SEEN IN THAT BANK IN GOTHAM CITY--YET I CAN OBSERVE EVERYTHING BEING SAID OR DONE IN IT, THROUGH THEM!
BANK
"THEN EARLIER TODAY, WHILE I WAS MAKING A FINAL TEST RUN IN THE OLD CARVER MANSION..."
HA! HA! WHAT BETTER WAY TO CHECK OUT MY LONG-RANGE REMOTE CONTROLS THAN BY HAVING A GHOST-ROBIN OPEN A WINDOW IN A HAUNTED HOUSE!

"REGARDING IT AS A SIGN OF GOOD FORTUNE WHEN THE **REAL ROBIN** CHANCED TO COME SNOOPING AROUND THE CARVER PLACE TONIGHT, I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF IT BY TESTING MY GHOST-FORMED **BATMAN**..."

THERE! THAT'LL GIVE **ROBIN** SOMETHING TO WONDER ABOUT WHEN HE COMES TO!

WHEN EDDIE REPP CONCLUDES HIS RAMBLING NARRATIVE...

NOW--**AWAY** YOU GO--AS MY INVISIBLE EYES AND EARS--TO MY OLD UNDERWORLD HAUNTS SO I CAN FIND OUT WHAT CRIMES ARE ABOUT TO BE COMMITTED!

SOMEWHAT LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, THE **COWLED CRUSADER** AND **BOY WONDER** PAY A VISIT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

GREAT WORK, YOU TWO! YOU BROKE UP THE **LIGHT-FOOT GANG** WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO NAB FOR MONTHS! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO THE REPORTERS WHEN YOU BROUGHT THEM IN?

HUH? BREAK UP THE **LIGHT-FOOT GANG**? **US**?!

A GRIM **BATMAN**--INTUITIVELY SENSING TROUBLE--LISTENS TO WHAT HE AND **ROBIN** ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE...

LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO YOU TWO SHOWED UP AT A PRECINCT HOUSE WITH THE ENTIRE GANG! YOU TURNED THEM OVER TO THE POLICE AND LEFT WITHOUT A WORD!

BUT YOU KNOW ALL THIS AS WELL AS I DO!

COMMISSIONER, THIS IS ALL **NEWS** TO US! LISTEN...

AFTER THE **COWLED CRUSADER** RELATES THEIR ADVENTURE IN THE **CARVER** HOUSE...

INCREDIBLE! **ANOTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN!** WHO ARE THEY? HOW WERE THEY ABLE TO CRACK A CRIME JUST THE WAY YOU TWO DO?

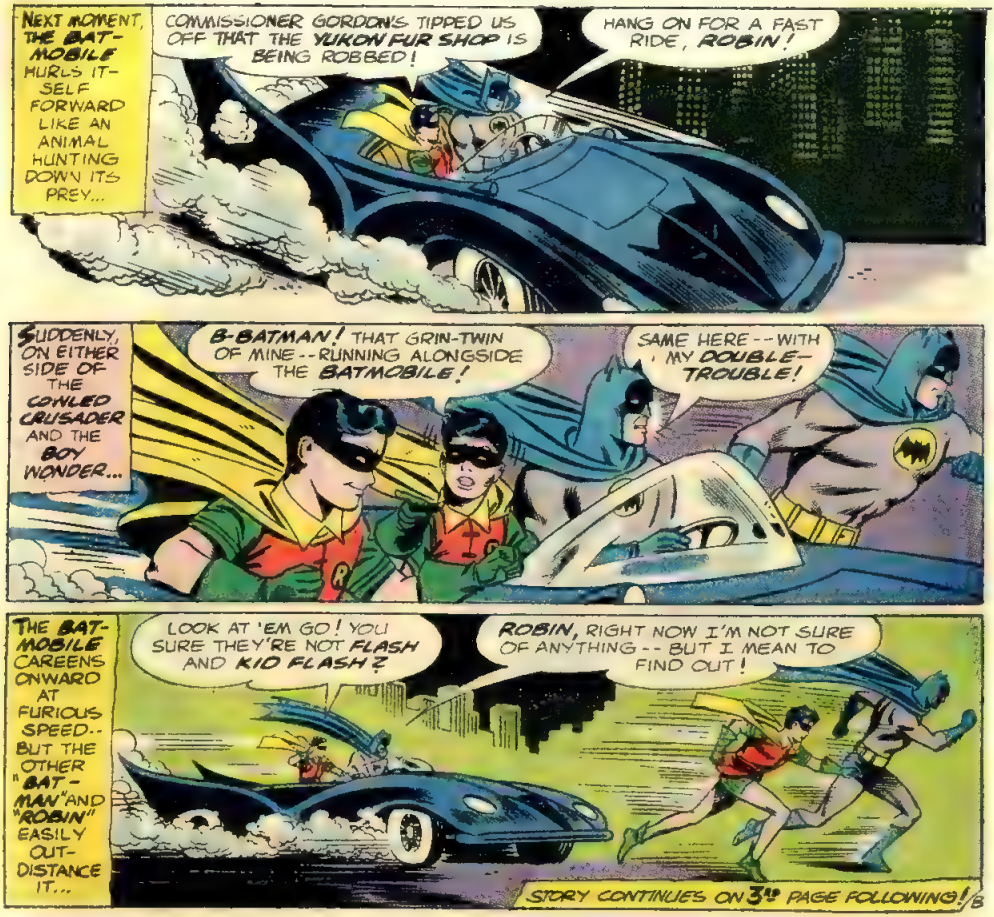
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DETERMINED TO FIND OUT!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RESUME THEIR REGULAR PATROL OF **GOTHAM CITY** STREETS...

HOT-LINE, ROBIN!

I'LL TAKE IT!

BRRIINGG!


NEXT MOMENT, THE BAT-MOBILE HURLS ITSELF FORWARD LIKE AN ANIMAL HUNTING DOWN ITS PREY...
COMMISSIONER GORDON'S TIPPED US OFF THAT THE YUKON FUR SHOP IS BEING ROBBED!
HANG ON FOR A FAST RIDE, ROBIN!
SUDDENLY, ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CONLED CRUSADER AND THE BOY WONDER...
B-BATMAN! THAT GRIN-TWIN OF MINE--RUNNING ALONGSIDE THE BATMOBILE!
SAME HERE--WITH MY DOUBLE-TROUBLE!
THE BAT-MOBILE CAREENS ONWARD AT FURIOUS SPEED--BUT THE OTHER "BAT-MAN" AND "ROBIN" EASILY OUT-DISTANCE IT...
LOOK AT 'EM GO! YOU SURE THEY'RE NOT FLASH AND KID FLASH?
ROBIN, RIGHT NOW I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING--BUT I MEAN TO FIND OUT!
STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING!

PUT YOUR NOSE TO THE DOT

(You'll "see" the delicious secret of a Tootsie Pop)

See! There's a Tootsie Roll inside...and hard candy outside. In six scrumptuous flavors too!

WET CHEMISTRY...

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF "WET CHEMISTRY" (THE USE OF LIQUID CHEMICALS TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF A GIVEN SUBSTANCE BY THE WAY IT REACTS TO OR IS TRANSFORMED BY OTHER CHEMICALS), EVIDENCE UNCOVERED AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME, WHICH FORMERLY WAS OF NO HELP IN SOLVING A CASE, IS NOW USED TO TRACK DOWN THE GUILTY OR EXONERATE THE INNOCENT...

"WET CHEMISTRY" DETERMINED THAT THE CAUSE OF A NATIONAL AIRLINES PLANE BLOWING UP OVER NORTH CAROLINA IN 1960 WAS THE EXPLOSION OF A HOME-MADE BOMB MADE OF MANGANESE DIOXIDE...

SIFTING WRECKAGE IN THE NATIONAL AIRLINES DISASTER.

CHIPS OF GLASS CLINGING TO THE JACKET OF A MAN MURDERED IN CALIFORNIA WAS TRACED TO A BROKEN LENS OF SPECTACLES WORN BY THE KILLER.

THAT'S THE MAN WHO BROUGHT IN A PAIR OF GLASSES TO BE FIXED!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER!

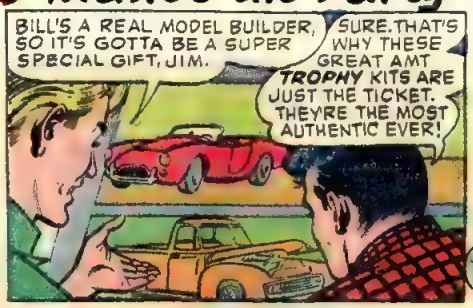
BITS OF ROOF-TAR AND GRAVEL FOUND AT THE SCENE OF A BURGLARIZED SUPER-MARKET IN SAN FRANCISCO MATCHED THOSE FOUND ON A PAIR OF SUSPECTS PICKED UP THE FOLLOWING DAY...

YOU'RE CARRYING THE EVIDENCE ON YOU THAT'LL SEND YOU TO JAIL!

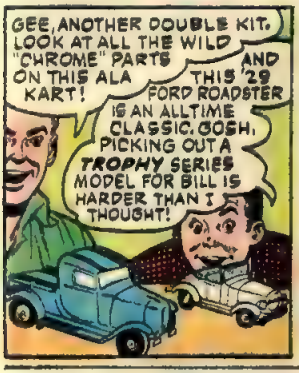
OTHER STRANGE CLUES USED BY "WET CHEMISTRY" TO TRACK DOWN CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN WAX IN A MAN'S EAR AND A GRAIN OF SUGAR IN A GAS TANK...

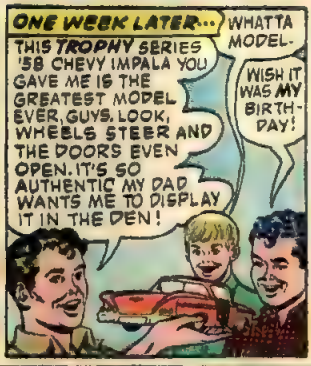
AMT makes the Party

JIM AND EDDIE SEARCH FOR A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR THEIR PAL.


BILL'S A REAL MODEL BUILDER, SO IT'S GOTTA BE A SUPER SPECIAL GIFT, JIM.
SURE. THAT'S WHY THESE GREAT AMT TROPHY KITS ARE JUST THE TICKET. THEY'RE THE MOST AUTHENTIC EVER!

WOW, DIG THAT COOL '40 WILLYS' ROD. DOES THIS CHOPPED AND CHANNELLED '32 FORD REALLY COME WITH IT?
NATCH! THAT'S AN AMT TROPHY SERIES DOUBLE KIT, EDDIE. IT MAKES TWO COMPLETE CARS.


GEE, ANOTHER DOUBLE KIT. LOOK AT ALL THE WILD "CHROME" PARTS ON THIS ALA KART!
AND THIS '29 FORD ROADSTER IS AN ALLTIME CLASSIC. GOSH. PICKING OUT A TROPHY SERIES MODEL FOR BILL IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!


ONE WEEK LATER...
THIS TROPHY SERIES '58 CHEVY IMPALA YOU GAVE ME IS THE GREATEST MODEL EVER, GUYS. LOOK, WHEELS STEER AND THE DOORS EVEN OPEN. IT'S SO AUTHENTIC MY DAD WANTS ME TO DISPLAY IT IN THE DEN!
WHATTA MODEL.
WISH IT WAS MY BIRTH-DAY!

GIVE 'EM-AND GET 'EM-AS GIFTS, BUYS. AMT'S COOL, AUTHENTIC TROPHY SERIES 1/25TH-SCALE MODELS.

AMT HAS OVER 30 GREAT MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM. GET 'EM TODAY AT YOUR HOBBY OR DEPARTMENT STORE $1.50 AND $2.00 A KIT.

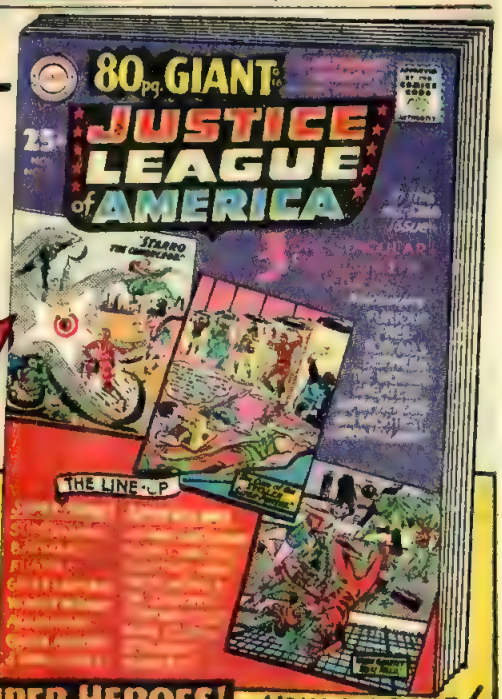
AMT CORPORATION BOX 81, TROY, MICHIGAN

Where the ACTION is--

IS WHERE THE

JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA

is on the GO-GO-GO!

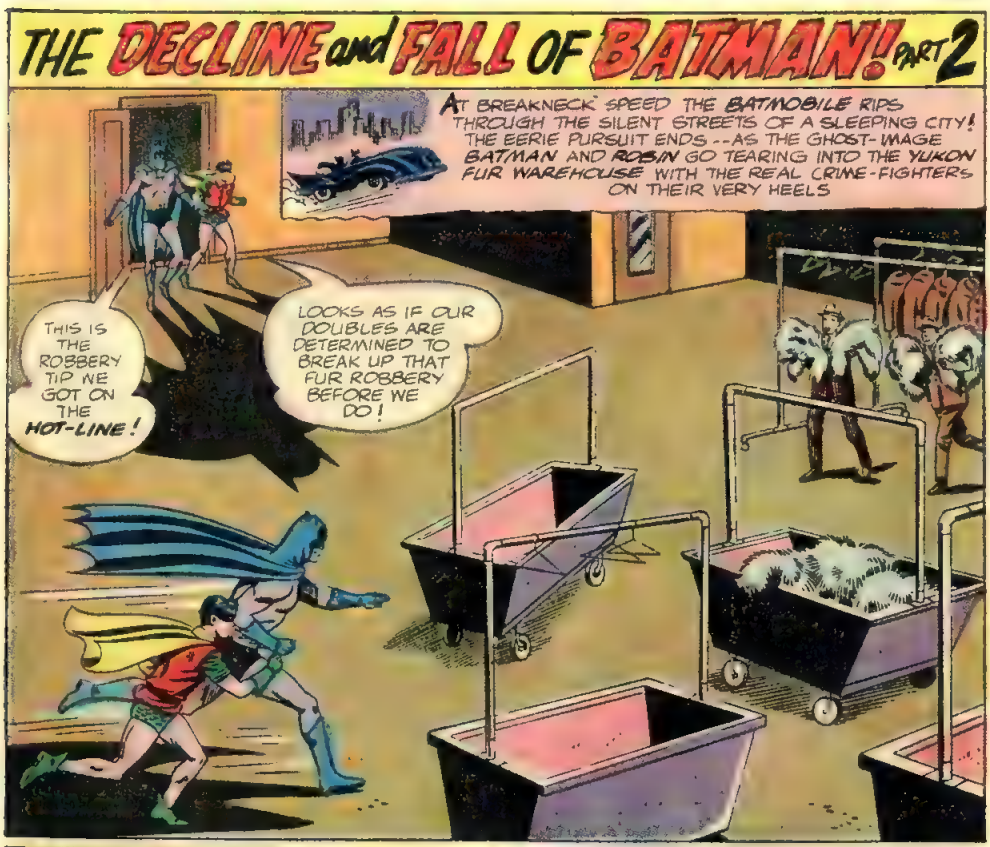


SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

PROUDLY PRESENTS AN 80 PAGE STAR-STUDDED ARRAY OF SPECTACULAR STORIES FEATURING...

The WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES! NOW ON SALE!

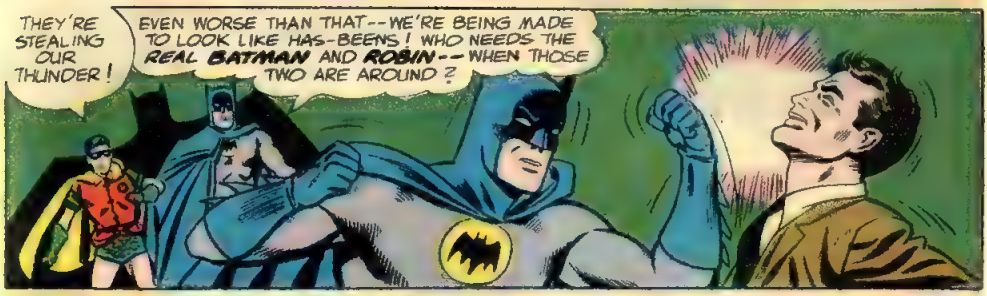
THE DECLINE and FALL OF BATMAN! PART 2

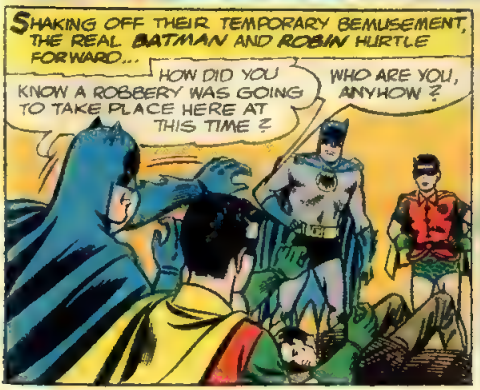

AT BREAKNECK SPEED THE BATMOBILE RIPS THROUGH THE SILENT STREETS OF A SLEEPING CITY! THE EERIE PURSUIT ENDS--AS THE GHOST-IMAGE BATMAN AND ROBIN GO TEARING INTO THE YUKON FUR WAREHOUSE WITH THE REAL CRIME-FIGHTERS ON THEIR VERY HEELS
THIS IS THE ROBBERY TIP WE GOT ON THE HOT-LINE!
LOOKS AS IF OUR DOUBLES ARE DETERMINED TO BREAK UP THAT FUR ROBBERY BEFORE WE DO!

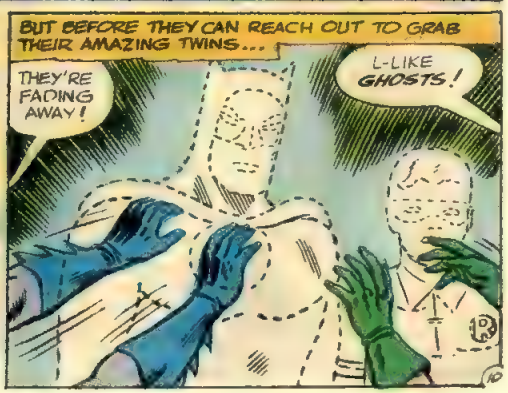
IN UTTER FASCINATION--NEVER HAVING SEEN THEMSELVES IN LIVING ACTION BEFORE--BATMAN AND ROBIN STARE AS...
LOOK AT ME--I MEAN, HIM--GO INTO ACTION!
THOSE CROOKS WON'T GET FUR--er, FAR! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE PUNNY!

ROBIN FEELS HIS EYES BULGE AS HE SEES HIM-SELF ROCKET INTO THE FURIOUS FRAY.
WOW! I COULDN'T DO BETTER THAN THAT MYSELF!

THE TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT KNOWS THE KEEN BITE OF GREEN-EYED JEALOUSY AS HIS ALTER EGO BLASTS INTO TWO JAWS...
HE'S USING ALL MY ATHLETIC TRICKS!
SOK!
THUD!


THEY'RE STEALING OUR THUNDER!
EVEN WORSE THAN THAT--WE'RE BEING MADE TO LOOK LIKE HAS-BEENS! WHO NEEDS THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN--WHEN THOSE TWO ARE AROUND?


SHAKING OFF THEIR TEMPORARY BEMUSEMENT, THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN HURTLE FORWARD...
HOW DID YOU KNOW A ROBBERY WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE HERE AT THIS TIME?
WHO ARE YOU, ANYHOW?

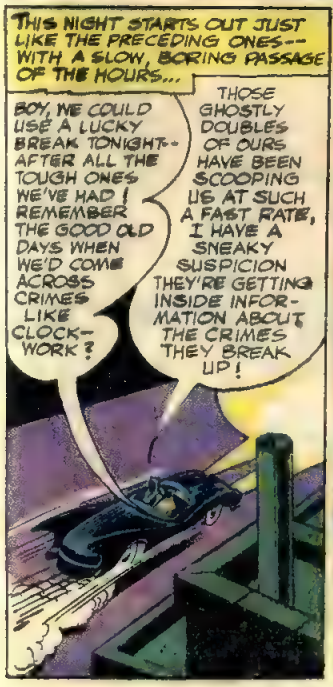

BUT BEFORE THEY CAN REACH OUT TO GRAB THEIR AMAZING TWINS...
THEY'RE FADING AWAY!
L-LIKE GHOSTS!

NOTHING REMAINS TO BE DONE BY THE DISGRUNTLED DUO--BUT TO BRING IN THE GANGSTERS THEIR GHOST COUNTERPARTS HAVE CAPTURED...
I'M GOING TO FEEL LIKE A SAP TURNING THESE MEN IN--AND GETTING THE CREDIT!
OUR TWO DUPLICATES ARE OUT TO SHOW US UP, ROBIN! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE OUR ADMIRING PUBLIC FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS--AND WE BECOME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF GOTHAM CITY!
DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS AND NIGHTS, THE OTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE--
A STEADY STREAM OF LAW-BREAKERS IS PARADED INTO POLICE STATIONS..
THOSE TWO BRING IN CROOKS EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR! IF THEY KEEP IT UP, GANGLAND IS FINISHED!
THE NIGHTS ARE LONELY AND EMPTY FOR THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN, FOR AS THE BATMOBILE CRUISES THE STREETS...
WE HAVEN'T TURNED UP A CROOK IN ALMOST A WEEK!
OUR DOUBLES ARE JUST TOO GOOD, ROBIN! IT'S UNCANNY THE WAY THEY MANAGE TO COME ACROSS CRIME AFTER CRIME!
THE TENSION IN THEIR VOICES BETRAYS THE FACT THAT EACH OF THE CRIME-FIGHTERS IS BADLY WORRIED...
LET'S FACE IT! WE'VE GONE INTO A DECLINE! THOSE TWO HAVE TAKEN OVER OUR JOBS--AND DOING BETTER AT IT THAN WE EVER DID!
I'M GETTING TO FEEL LIKE AN OLD WAR-HORSE READY TO BE PUT OUT TO PASTURE!

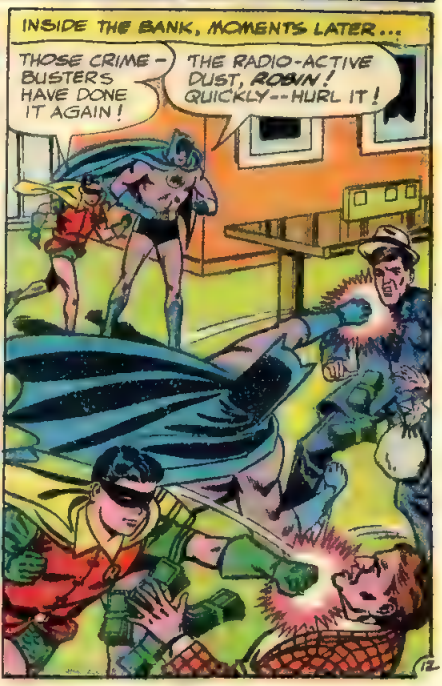
THE DAYS PASS ALL TOO SLOWLY FOR THE ONCE-BUSY MANHUNTERS! THEN ONE NIGHT IN THE BATCAVE, WHEN THEY ARE DUE TO LEAVE ON THEIR PATROL...
WHAT GIVES, BRUCE? AREN'T WE GOING OUT AGAIN, TONIGHT? YOU'RE NOT CALLING IT QUITS?
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT! WE'RE TAKING OFF AS SOON AS I FINISH WORKING ON THIS RADIOACTIVE POWDER!

I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THOSE GHOSTLY FIGURES! CAREFUL, ROBIN--DON'T GET TOO NEAR THIS STUFF! IT COULD TEMPORARILY PARALYZE YOU!
WHAT IS IT ANYWAY?

IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE OF RADIOACTIVE DUST THAT GIVES OFF HIGH-FREQUENCY RADIATION PULSATIONS! NEXT TIME WE RUN INTO OUR DOUBLES, I'M GOING TO THROW IT OVER THEM...
--SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THEM WHEN THEY DISAPPEAR! NICE GOING, BRUCE!

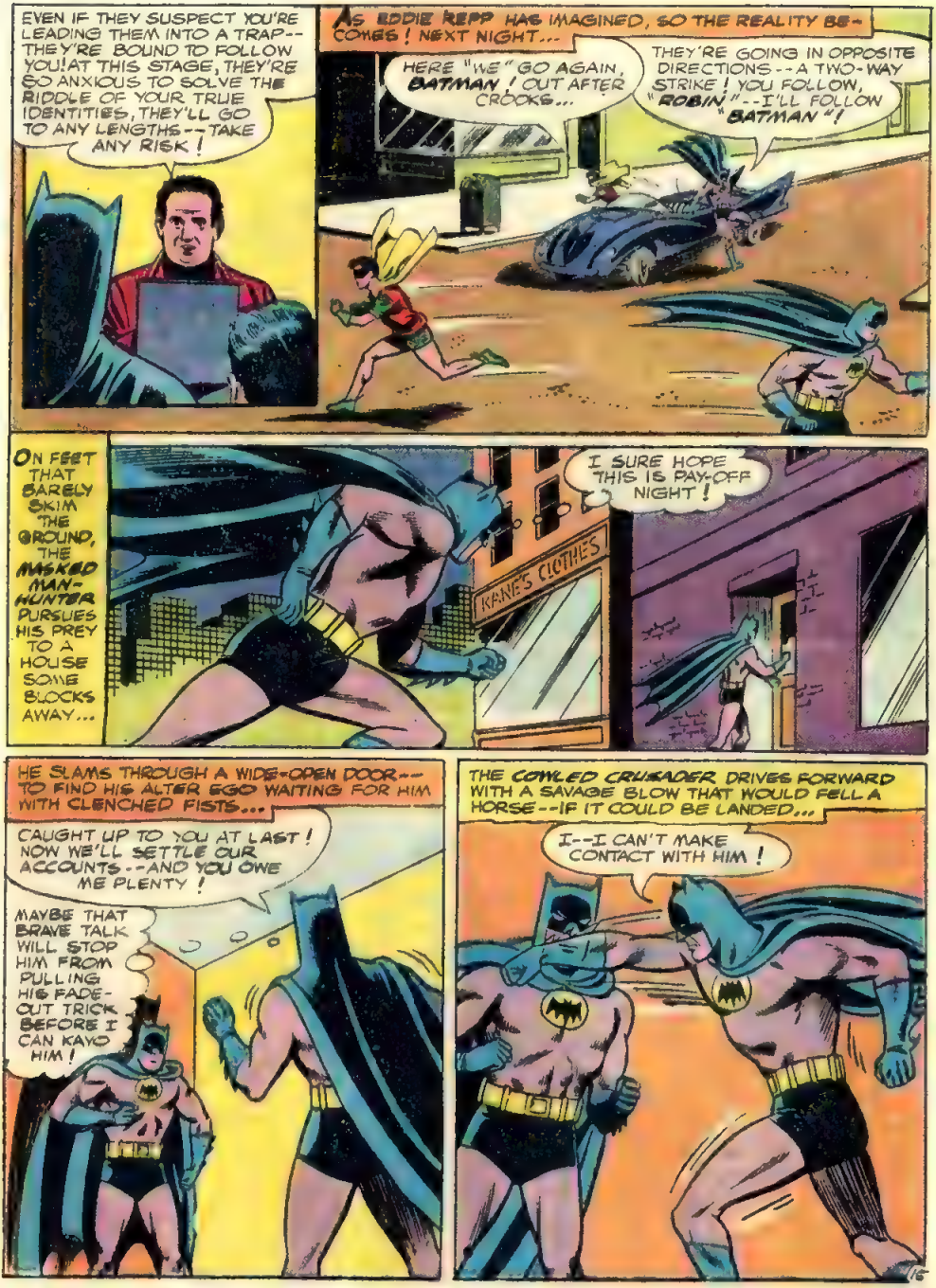

THIS NIGHT STARTS OUT JUST LIKE THE PRECEDING ONES--WITH A SLOW, BORING PASSAGE OF THE HOURS...
BOY, WE COULD USE A LUCKY BREAK TONIGHT--AFTER ALL THE TOUGH ONES WE'VE HAD! REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN WE'D COME ACROSS CRIMES LIKE CLOCK-WORK?
THOSE GHOSTLY DOUBLES OF OURS HAVE BEEN SCOOPING US AT SUCH A FAST RATE, I HAVE A SNEAKY SUSPICION THEY'RE GETTING INSIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRIMES THEY BREAK UP!

AT MIDNIGHT--THE SO-CALLED WITCHING HOUR...
BATMAN--LOOK! A LIGHT INSIDE THE BANK! WE'VE HIT THE JACKPOT! STOP THE CAR! STOP THE CAR!
BANK
EASY, BOY! I REALIZE YOU WANT SOME ACTION...BUT YOU KNOW THE PLAN--SO LET'S NOT MUFF IT!


INSIDE THE BANK, MOMENTS LATER...
THOSE CRIME-BUSTERS HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
THE RADIO-ACTIVE DUST, ROBIN! QUICKLY--HURL IT!

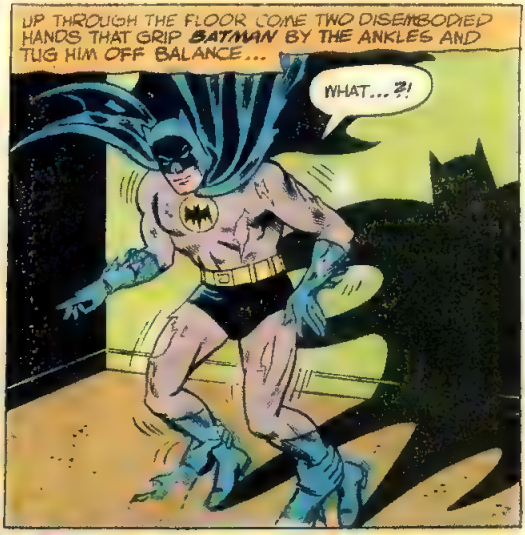
TWIN VIALS OF RADIOACTIVE POWDER CRASH INTO THE OTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN--BREAK ON CONTACT..
THAT OUGHT TO DO IT!
BUT NEXT INSTANT, AS "BATMAN" AND "ROBIN" PULL THEIR DISAPPEARING ACT AGAIN...
OH, NO! THE STUFF DIDN'T STICK TO THEM! THEY'VE GONE AND LEFT IT BEHIND!
THEY AREN'T SUBSTANTIAL! THEY SORT OF FADED OUT OF EXISTENCE--LIKE A PICTURE ON A TV SCREEN WHEN THE SET IS SHUT OFF!
LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER THEY HAVE DELIVERED THE PRISONERS TO THE POLICE--AS IF TO MAKE COMPENSATION FOR THEIR HARDSHIPS, A KINDLY FATE INTERVENES...
HIJACKERS! AND THOSE PESKY TWINS OF OURS ARE NOWHERE ABOUT!
I FEEL LIKE A VOLCANO--ABOUT TO ERUPT!
ROBIN CANNOT WAIT FOR THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER TO BRAKE THE CAR! HE LEAPS UP ONTO THE HOOD AND...
YOU'RE MINE... ALL MINE!
ROBIN'S BEEN WORKIN' TOO HARD! HE'S SLIPPED HIS SKULL CAP!
THE BOY WONDER RELISHES THE RASP OF KNUCKLE ON JAW-BONE WITH A HEART-FELT HAPPINESS...
ME
THUD!
THIS IS MUSIC TO MY EARS AND SHEER ART TO MY EYES! I'M LIVING AGAIN!

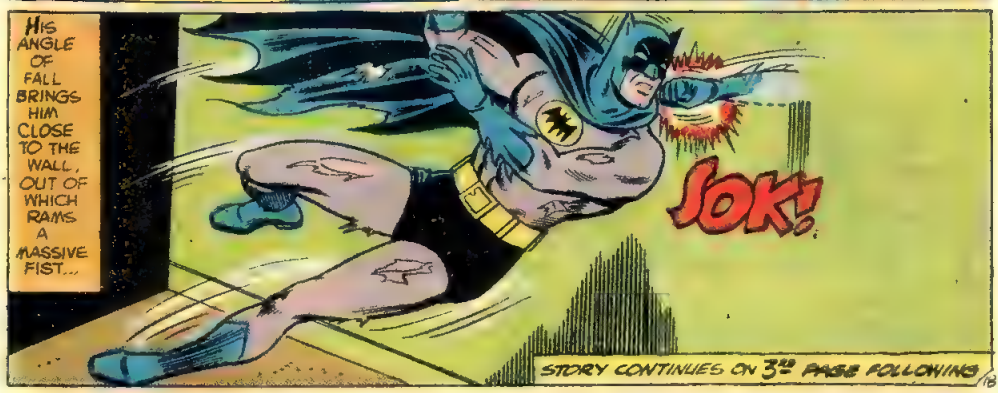
EVEN THE MORE RESTRAINED BATMAN LETS GO WITH PENT-UP RAGE AS...
I ALMOST HATE TO END THIS, FELLAS! I'D LIKE TO STRETCH IT OUT FOR A WHILE...
BATMAN'S GONE GUNS HO LIKE THE KID! WHAT'S WITH THOSE TWO THESE DAYS? THEY MUST BE OUT TO SET A RECORD!
HIS SLEDGE-HAMMER FISTS HIT ONCE--AND THEN AGAIN...
THESE GUYS THINK THE GHOSTLY BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE US, TOO!
WELL, WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT THEM! ONLY MY FISTS WILL DO THAT!
BUT THAT BRIEF INTERLUDE OF EXCITEMENT IS ONLY AN OASIS IN A DESERT OF DO-NOTHINGNESS! NEXT NIGHT THEY ARE BACK ON THEIR FELON-FAMINE DIET..
WE STARTED AT DUSK AND PATROLLED UNTIL DAWN--AND NEVER SPOTTED A CROOK!
YET OUR SHORT-WAVE RADIO SAID "BATMAN" AND "ROBIN" CAPTURED FIVE DIFFERENT GANGS THIS NIGHT! ROBIN, I ADMIT--I'M GETTING DESPERATE!
IN HIS GOTHAM CITY HANGOUT, EDDIE REPP HOLDS A BRIEFING SESSION WITH HIS GHOST-IMAGE GANGBUSTERS...
THE TIME IS NOW RIPE TO LET THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND MY "HIDE-OUT"! I'VE BROKEN THEIR SPIRIT! NOW I'M GOING TO WRECK THEM PHYSICALLY!
YOU WILL DELIBERATELY LET YOURSELVES BE SEEN TONIGHT--BUT INSTEAD OF DISAPPEARING, YOU WILL VISIBLY FLEE TO A HIDE-OUT I'VE ARRANGED FOR! BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL BE SUSPICIOUS--BUT THEY WON'T GIVE UP THE CHASE!


EVEN IF THEY SUSPECT YOU'RE LEADING THEM INTO A TRAP--THEY'RE BOUND TO FOLLOW YOU! AT THIS STAGE, THEY'RE SO ANXIOUS TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF YOUR TRUE IDENTITIES, THEY'LL GO TO ANY LENGTHS--TAKE ANY RISK!
AS EDDIE REPP HAS IMAGINED, SO THE REALITY BECOMES! NEXT NIGHT...
HERE "WE" GO AGAIN, BATMAN! OUT AFTER CROOKS...
THEY'RE GOING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS--A TWO-WAY STRIKE! YOU FOLLOW, "ROBIN"--I'LL FOLLOW "BATMAN"!
ON FEET THAT BARELY SKIM THE GROUND, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER PURSUES HIS PREY TO A HOUSE SOME BLOCKS AWAY...
KANE'S CLOTHES
I SURE HOPE THIS IS PAY-OFF NIGHT!
HE SLAMS THROUGH A WIDE-OPEN DOOR--TO FIND HIS ALTER EGO WAITING FOR HIM WITH CLENCHED FISTS...
CAUGHT UP TO YOU AT LAST! NOW WE'LL SETTLE OUR ACCOUNTS--AND YOU OWE ME PLENTY!
MAYBE THAT BRAVE TALK WILL STOP HIM FROM PULLING HIS FADE-OUT TRICK BEFORE I CAN KAYO HIM!
THE COWLED CRUSADER DRIVES FORWARD WITH A SAVAGE BLOW THAT WOULD FELL A HORSE--IF IT COULD BE LANDED...
I--I CAN'T MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM!

THE FOLLOW-UP BLOW IS STRUCK BY BATMAN'S EERIE FOE...
BUT HE CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH ME! TALK ABOUT UNEVEN FIGHTS--!
THE REAL BATMAN'S MUSCULAR ARMS DRIVE OUTWARD TO CATCH HIS OPPONENT IN A MIGHTY WRESTLING GRIP BUT..
GRABBED EMPTY AIR-- BUT HE CAUGHT ME UNDER THE CHIN!
CRACK!
BATMAN'S GHOST IMAGE WHIRLS THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER AROUND, SENDING HIM FLYING BACKWARDS...
HOW CAN HE HIT ME--WHEN I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM?
MIGHTY HANDS BEND AND GRIP THE COWLED CRUSADER, SWINGING HIM UPWARD INTO THE AIR...
HE POSSESSES MY OWN STRENGTH-- INCREASED TEN-FOLD!
HELPLESSLY, HE IS SWUNG AROUND AND AROUND...
THIS IS--LIKE FIGHTING A-- MIRAGE THAT CAN--HIT BACK AT YOU!

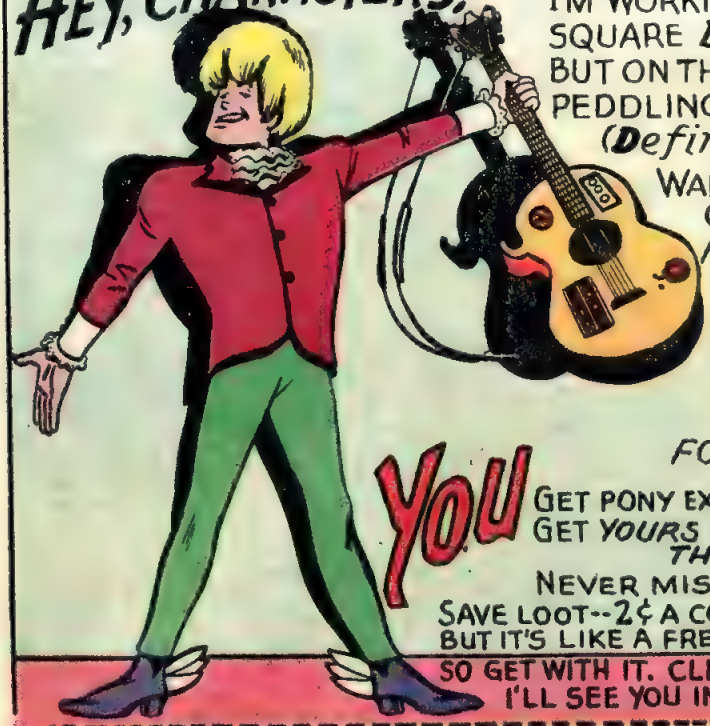
HE IS HEAVED PINWHEELING THROUGH THE AIR...
HE CRASHES HARD AGAINST A WALL! DAZED, GASPING FOR BREATH, FIGHTING A "THING" HE CAN MAKE NO IMPRESSION ON, ONLY BATMAN'S BATTLING HEART COMPELS HIM TO GO ON FIGHTING...
IF THERE'S A WAY TO STOP HIM... I'LL FIND IT!
HE AVOIDS ANOTHER BLOW BY A ROLL-OVER ON THE FLOOR...
SLIPPED THROUGH HIS LEGS! APPARENTLY THE ONLY PART OF HIM THAT CAN TOUCH ANYTHING ARE HIS HANDS!
WHIPPING TO HIS FEET, THE COWLED CRUSADER PLANTS A FAST-MOVING FINGERLOCK ON A FIST COMING STRAIGHT FOR HIS JAW!...
AHHH! AT LAST I HAVE HOLD OF SOMETHING SOLID!
HIS BODY TENSES AS HE TURNS AND FLIPS HIS OPPONENT THROUGH THE AIR...
LET'S SEE HOW YOU TAKE THIS, MY GHOSTLY FRIEND!




HIS ANGLE OF FALL BRINGS HIM CLOSE TO THE WALL, OUT OF WHICH RAMS A MASSIVE FIST...
SOK!
STORY CONTINUES ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
18

FOOEY!
FOOEY!
CHEWY!
BAR CANDY DISAPPEARS IN A FEW BITES
BAG CANDY DISAPPEARS IN A FEW GULPS
CHEWY CHEWY TOOTSIE ROLLS LAST A LONG TIME
Tootsie Roll

HEY, CHARACTERS!



I'M WORKING WITH THAT SQUARE **BOB HOPE**-- BUT ON THE FLIP SIDE, I'M PEDDLING SUBS FOR **DC.** (*Definitely Cool*)

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"BOY MEETS GNOME!"
BOB HOPE
SUPER-NIP! THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL SHOW? WHERE'S THE FACULTY?
DON'T BUG ME! MANY LIKE THIS IS THEM
THE BENEDICT ARNOLD HIGH SCHOOL FIVE

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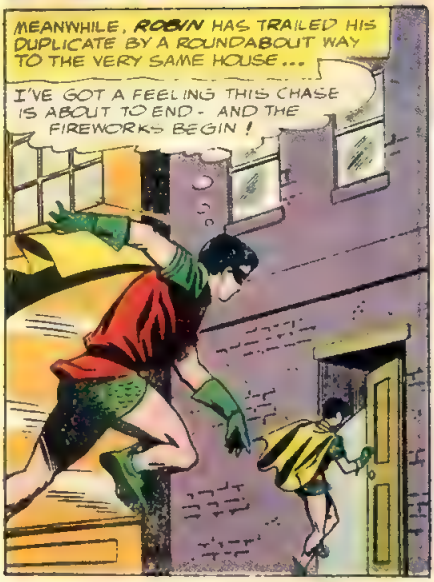
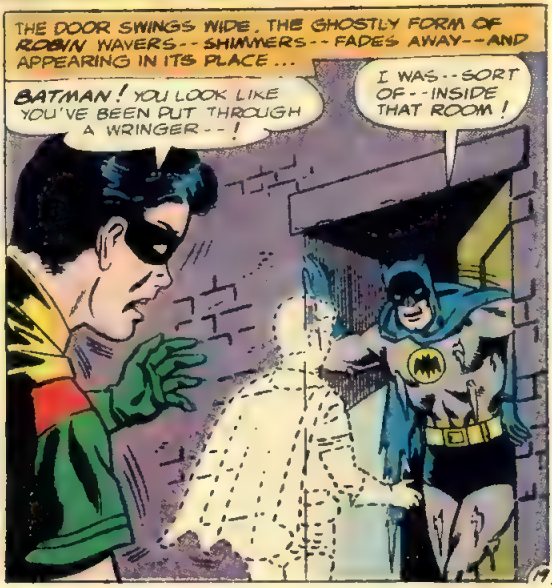
Rocky and Bullwinkle
ARE CHEERIOS YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL BULLWINKLE?
RIGHT, ROCK.
Cheerios
CHEERIOS 'N' MILK GIVE US PEOPLE MUSCLE-MAKIN' PROTEIN...
...AND LOTS OF GO...GO... GO!
DO YOU MEAN THAT EVERYONE SHOULD GO WITH THE GOODNESS OF CHEERIOS?
MOST ASSUREDLY, ROCK!
BUT THEY SHOULD WATCH WHERE THEY'RE GOING!

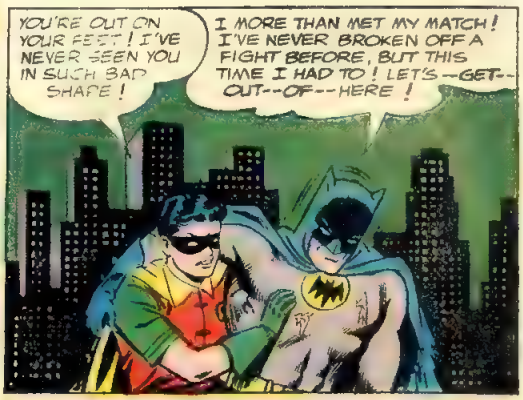
THE DECLINE and FALL OF BATMAN! PART 3

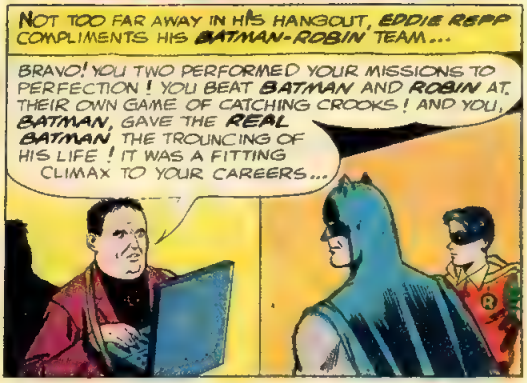
THE ONE-SIDED BATTLE RAGES ACROSS THE ROOM AS BATMAN'S UNIFORM RIPS AND RENDS! NOW HERE -- NOW THERE -- A FIST RAMS INTO BATMAN, AND ONLY HIS TERRIFIC FIGHTING HEART KEEPS HIM STANDING THERE FOR MORE...
I--I'VE HAD IT--FOR TONIGHT! GOT TO BREAK OFF THIS FIGHT--CLEAR MY HEAD--COME UP WITH SOME OTHER IDEA...
SOK!

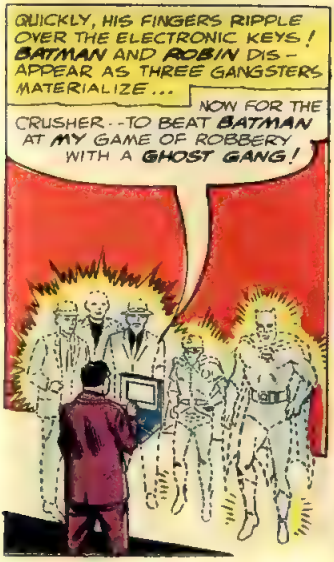

MEANWHILE, ROBIN HAS TRAILED HIS DUPLICATE BY A ROUNDABOUT WAY TO THE VERY SAME HOUSE...
I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS CHASE IS ABOUT TO END - AND THE FIREWORKS BEGIN!

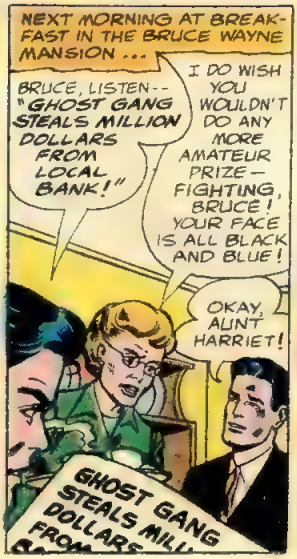

THE DOOR SWINGS WIDE, THE GHOSTLY FORM OF ROBIN WAVERS--SHIMMERS--FADES AWAY--AND APPEARING IN ITS PLACE...
BATMAN! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PUT THROUGH A WRINGER--!
I WAS--SORT OF--INSIDE THAT ROOM!

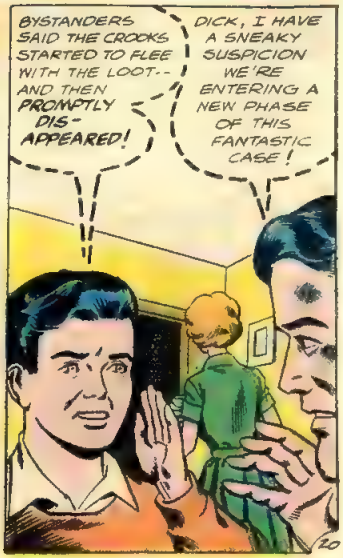
LIKE AN AVENGING ROCKET, THE BOY WONDER DASHES FOR THE OPEN DOORWAY...
LET ME AT 'EM!
NO, ROBIN! PANT! DON'T GO INTO THAT ROOM! I WAS LUCKY TO GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE!

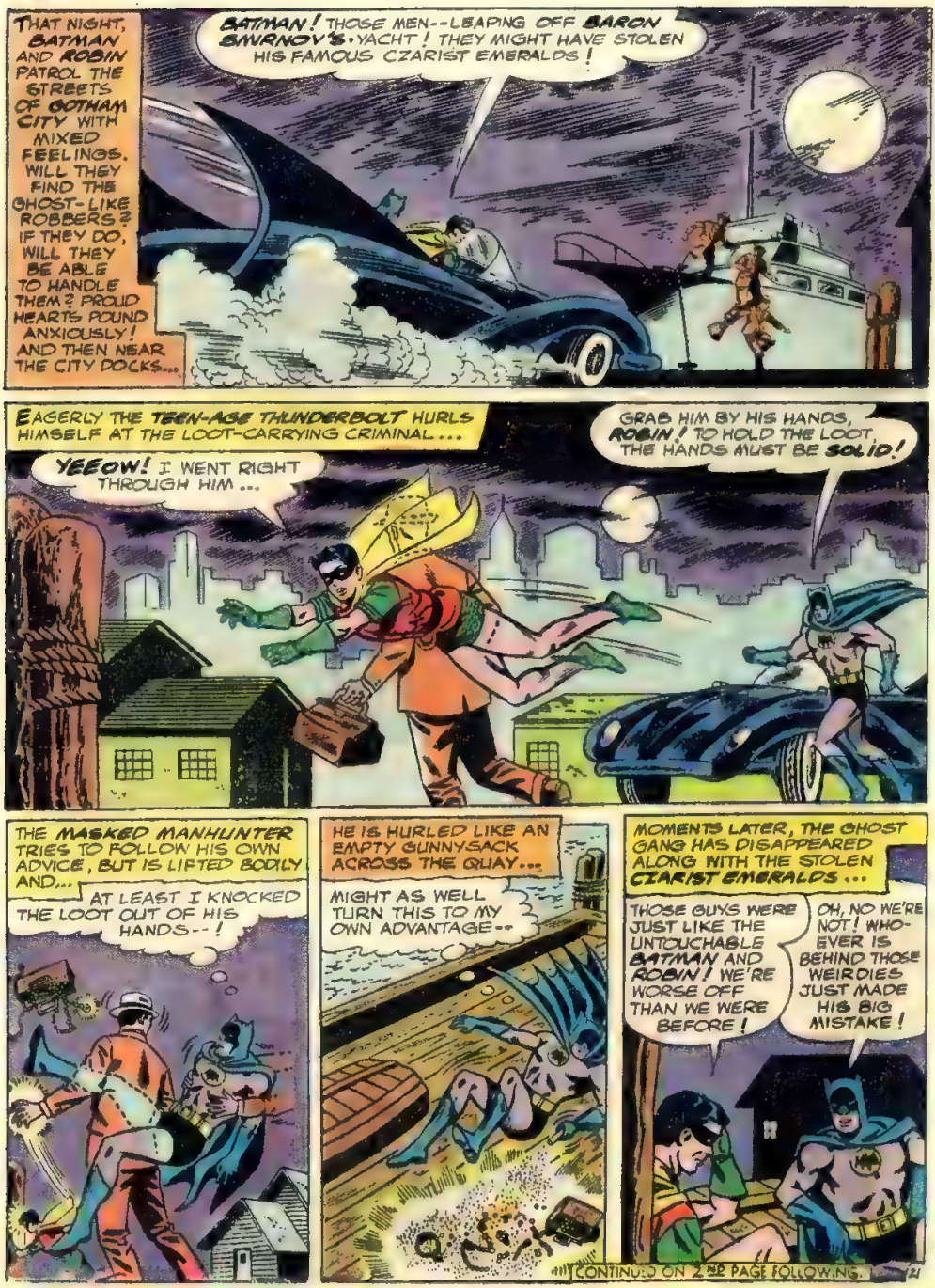

YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR FEET! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN SUCH BAD SHAPE!
I MORE THAN MET MY MATCH! I'VE NEVER BROKEN OFF A FIGHT BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME I HAD TO! LET'S--GET--OUT--OF--HERE!

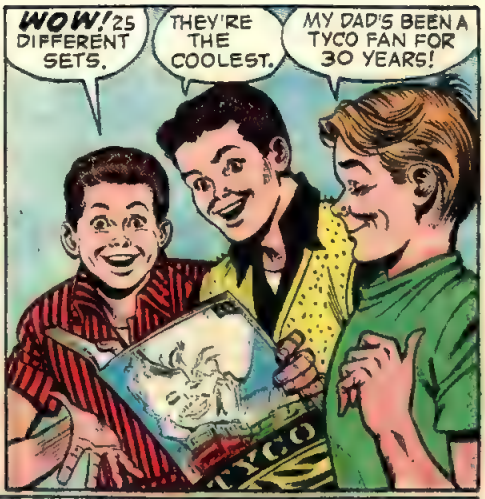

NOT TOO FAR AWAY IN HIS HANGOUT, EDDIE REPP COMPLIMENTS HIS BATMAN-ROBIN TEAM...
BRAVO! YOU TWO PERFORMED YOUR MISSIONS TO PERFECTION! YOU BEAT BATMAN AND ROBIN AT THEIR OWN GAME OF CATCHING CROOKS! AND YOU, BATMAN, GAVE THE REAL BATMAN THE TROUNCING OF HIS LIFE! IT WAS A FITTING CLIMAX TO YOUR CAREERS...

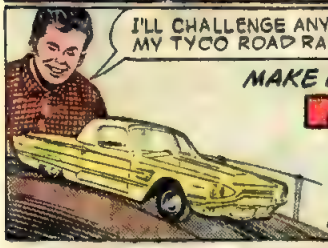

QUICKLY, HIS FINGERS RIPPLE OVER THE ELECTRONIC KEYS! BATMAN AND ROBIN DISAPPEAR AS THREE GANGSTERS MATERIALIZE...
NOW FOR THE CRUSHER--TO BEAT BATMAN AT MY GAME OF ROBBERY WITH A GHOST GANG!


NEXT MORNING AT BREAKFAST IN THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION...
BRUCE, LISTEN--"GHOST GANG STEALS MILLION DOLLARS FROM LOCAL BANK!"
I DO WISH YOU WOULDN'T DO ANY MORE AMATEUR PRIZE-FIGHTING, BRUCE! YOUR FACE IS ALL BLACK AND BLUE!
OKAY, AUNT HARRIET!
GHOST GANG STEALS MILL
DOLLARS
FROM


BYSTANDERS SAID THE CROOKS STARTED TO FLEE WITH THE LOOT--AND THEN PROMPTLY DISAPPEARED!
DICK, I HAVE A SNEAKY SUSPICION WE'RE ENTERING A NEW PHASE OF THIS FANTASTIC CASE!


THAT NIGHT, BATMAN AND ROBIN PATROL THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY WITH MIXED FEELINGS. WILL THEY FIND THE GHOST-LIKE ROBBERS? IF THEY DO, WILL THEY BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM? PROUD HEARTS POUND ANXIOUSLY! AND THEN NEAR THE CITY DOCKS...
BATMAN! THOSE MEN--LEAPING OFF BARON BAVRNOV'S YACHT! THEY MIGHT HAVE STOLEN HIS FAMOUS CZARIST EMERALDS!
EAGERLY THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT HURLS HIMSELF AT THE LOOT-CARRYING CRIMINAL...
YEEOW! I WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIM...
GRAB HIM BY HIS HANDS, ROBIN! TO HOLD THE LOOT, THE HANDS MUST BE SOLID!
THE MASKED MANHUNTER TRIES TO FOLLOW HIS OWN ADVICE, BUT IS LIFTED BODILY AND...
AT LEAST I KNOCKED THE LOOT OUT OF HIS HANDS--!
HE IS HURLED LIKE AN EMPTY GUNNYSACK ACROSS THE QUAY...
MIGHT AS WELL TURN THIS TO MY OWN ADVANTAGE--
MOMENTS LATER, THE GHOST GANG HAS DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THE STOLEN CZARIST EMERALDS...
THOSE GUYS WERE JUST LIKE THE UNTOUCHABLE BATMAN AND ROBIN! WE'RE WORSE OFF THAN WE WERE BEFORE!
OH, NO WE'RE NOT! WHOEVER IS BEHIND THOSE WEIRDIES JUST MADE HIS BIG MISTAKE!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.





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THE ELEMENT MAN

MEET WITCH KRAFT! SHE'S SUCH A ZANY JANE, THEY MUST'VE STOLEN HER STRAIGHT OUT OF THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY! SHE'S A GEYSER OF GIGGLES FROM THE WITCHING WELL!

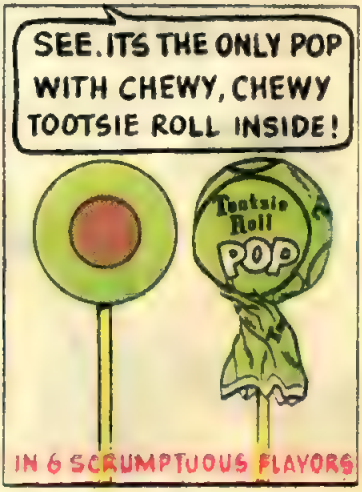
THEY'RE ON THEIR OWN— THE TEEN TITANS— FOUR OF YOUR FAVORITE JUNIOR HEROES. IN THE WILDEST ADVENTURE OF THEIR CAREERS!

GLEEFUL EYES LOOK UP AT THE COWLED CRUSADER, AS THE BOY WONDER CRIES OUT IN DELIGHT...
OF COURSE! I KNOW WHAT YOU DID AS YOU WERE THROWN THROUGH THE AIR! YOU SCATTERED SOME OF THAT RADIOACTIVE DUST ON THE LOOT!
CORRECT! AND SINCE THE LOOT CAN'T DISAPPEAR THE WAY THE CROOKS CAN, IT HAS THE DUST STILL ON IT--SO WE CAN TRAIL IT!
AGAIN THE BATMOBILE CLEAVES THE DARKNESS OF GOTHAM CITY! AND WHEN THEY REACH TRAIL'S END...
BATMAN!
ROBIN! OH, I'M SORRY YOU FOUND ME -I WOULD HAVE LIKED THIS TO LAST LONGER...
EDDIE REPP!
MAN, YOU'RE GOING TO BE EVEN SORRIER WE FOUND YOU!
NONSENSE! THE PENALTY FOR FINDING ME OUT IS--YOUR DEATHS! YOU'VE HAD YOUR DECLINE--NOW COMES THE FALL!
AS HIS FINGERS CRASH DOWN ON THE ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD, IN RACES HIS GHOST GANG...
WHILE MY CREATIONS ARE INVULNERABLE TO YOUR ATTACKS, I'M NOT!
GRAB THEIR FISTS, ROBIN! IT'S USUALLY THE ONLY SOLID PART OF THEM!
HERE WE GO AGAIN!
THEIR EERIE ENEMIES TRIP THEM UP BY...
WHAT CAN WE DO AGAINST THESE THINGS?
KEEP FIGHTING--AND WE'LL WIN!

AS THEY GO DOWN, THE FISTS OF THE GHOST GANG TURN SOLID AND...
KEEP FIGHTING, HUH? I'D SURE LIKE THE CHANCE-- MMMPPFF!
KEEP FIGHTING, ROBIN-- IT CAN'T BE LONG NOW!
IT JUST STRUCK ME WHAT'S ON BATMAN'S MIND! BOY, HE SURE IS ALWAYS THINKING!
AND THEN--SUDDENLY--WHAT THE COWLED CRUSADER HAS BEEN EXPECTING -- HAPPENS!...
THEY'VE STOPPED MOVING-- FROZE IN MID-MOTION!
EXACTLY! NOW TAKE A LOOK AT EDDIE REPP!
REMEMBER, ROBIN, WHEN I WAS PREPARING THAT RADIATION DUST? I HANDLED IT WITH GLOVES AND A CLAMP!
SURE--AND YOU WARNED ME NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO IT-- OR IT WOULD TEMPORARILY PARALYZE ME! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO EDDIE REPP-- FROM HANDLING THE DUST-COVERED LOOT!
THE RADIOACTIVITY FROM THE DUST ON THE LOOT SEEMS TO HAVE AFFECTED THE GADGET WITH WHICH HE CONTROLLED THOSE GHOST CREATIONS TOO!
YES, IT'S PROBABLY BEEN SHORT-CIRCUITED! SEE-- HIS GHOSTLY GANGSTERS ARE FADING OUT!

THE MASKED MANHUNTER TIGHTENS HIS GRIP ON EDDIE REPP...
LET'S GO, REPP... BACK TO JAIL ...
I'LL TAKE THIS GADGET TO THE BATCAVE!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ONCE AGAIN IN FREE-AND-EASY ACTION...
FEELS GREAT TO BE OUT CATCHING CROOKS AGAIN, eh, ROBIN?
SURE DOES! WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE BY OUR GHOST-SELVES!
YOU GUYS MAY BE GETTIN' A KICK OUTA THIS... BUT WE AIN'T!
CRIME DOESN'T PAY... NOT WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN AROUND TO HAUNT CROOKS!
The End

I'LL PROVE IT!
LET'S CUT YOUR POP IN HALF
?


SEE. ITS THE ONLY POP WITH CHEWY, CHEWY TOOTSIE ROLL INSIDE!
Tootsie Roll POP
IN 6 SCRUMPTUOUS FLAVORS

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor: Batman 172 was so good, I just had to splurge a nickel to tell you how much I enjoyed it!

"Attack of the Invisible Knights" was very clever, and though it used some supernatural ideas, they turned out to be of natural causes, and made the story much more plausible. It is very comforting to know that our hero is not very easily swayed into believing that there are such things as ghosts, even when the evidence is so much in their favor. The direction of the story was very good, and almost had me believing the ghosts actually destroyed the pearls.

"Robin's Unassisted Triple Play" was the clincher. I've long been an advocate of having the *Boy Wonder* star in some *Batman* stories, and I'm glad to see it finally happen. I hope enough of your readers like it enough to happen again.

As you know, *Robin* was on his own for a couple of years in your defunct *Star Spangled Comics*. What I enjoyed about these stories was that they dealt with boyish problems, just on the right parallel for *Robin*.

Again, thanks for a great issue, and keep up the good work. Since your "new look," I've started collecting *Batman* and *Detective* and enjoy every issue. I'm looking forward to many more! —*Don Foote, Johnstown, N.Y.*

(Robin's solo venture had a unanimous click with the readers. Another interesting—and informative—*Robin* commentary from one of our regular correspondents follows. —*Editor)*

* * *

Dear Editor: The June *Batman* is of special note because it contained the first solo *Robin* story in two years. Since "Secret of the Ant-Man" back in *Batman* 156 he hasn't really gone off on his own in his own story. The script on this yarn was very good. I liked the way *Robin* worked his Physics knowledge into his fighting attack. The Kane-Greene (have you ever seen *green cane?* I haven't!) artwork was excellent. Sid Greene did a much better job of inking than he did on his first *Batman* assignment a couple of issues ago.

The only thing wrong was the virtual lack of the snappy, punny talk that the *Boy Wonder* is famous for when he fights it out with crooks. However, this didn't spoil the story too much for me. —*Mike Friedrich, Castro Valley, Cal.*

(Let's not overlook author-credit for "Robin's Unassisted Triple Play." Gardner Fox whipped that one up—while John Broome handled the writing end of "Attack of the Invisible Knights." —*Editor)*

* * *

Dear Editor: When I read "Attack of the Invisible Knights" I thought it was great—except for a slight goof. On page 2, Jenkins says the Duke of Darnham, while on the very same page the knight refers to the Duke of Darnham! But if I know ye old editor he will probably say "don't blame me, blame Jenkins!" —*Danny Eggert, Johnstown, Pa.*

(Darn(ham) if you aren't right! —*Editor)*

* * *

Dear Editor: Batman and *Robin* have regular costumes. In other words, their costumes are made of ordinary cloth. Then why do their costumes never rip or tear? When they go out on a case, they encounter plenty of bruising, rough and tumble action—yet their costumes remain intact. —*Roccie Chiaro, Markham, Ill.*

(A glance at this issue's cover—and story—will cut short any more complaints of this nature! —*Editor)*

* * *

Dear Editor: I suppose that in the 26 or so years you've been publishing *Batman* someone's brought this up—but just in case not, I'd like to point out a rather interesting fact:

There really was a crime-fighting *Batman! John Batman* was his name and he caught the greatest bush-ranger (a sort of highwayman) in Australian history, Matthew Brady. And here's something else of interest: Brady is reported as having asked about *Batman's* costume—which had sort of a military look! —*Rogers Smith, Springfield, Ill.*

(We're always on the lookout for interesting *Batman* sidelights. If any more readers come up with any, we'll be glad to pass them along to our fans. —*Editor)*

* * *

Dear Editor: Recently I criticized the *new look* introduced into *Batman* comics. Several mags later, I have discovered how inane some of my comments were.

My first complaint was that the artwork on *Batman* and *Robin* was changing their distinctiveness. After looking through several *Batman Annuals* I realize that through the years different artists have interpreted the dynamic duo in slightly differing but pleasing forms—ditto for the *new look*.

My second gripe was about the "deterioration" of the plots. As mentioned before, your latest issues have convinced me that the one thing which hasn't been changed by the *new look* is the very fine style of writing.

The *new look* is great—don't let anyone tell you differently. —*Bruce Baker, San Francisco, Cal.*

(Welcome to the fold. You see, we'd rather be *read* than dead! *Editor)*

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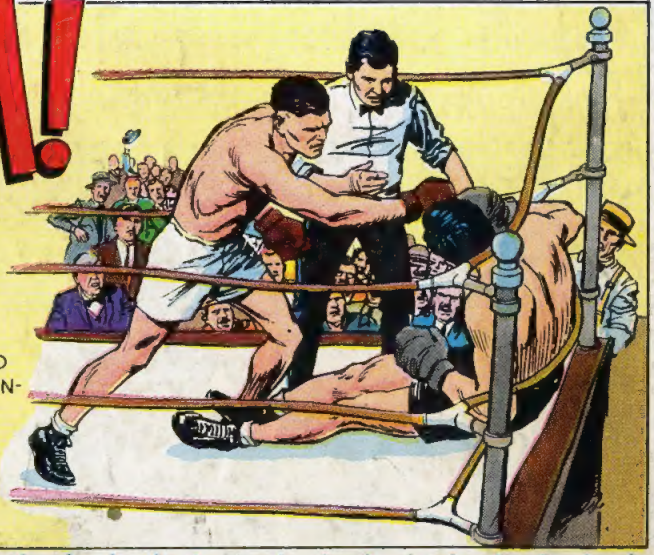

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